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## CALLING AND COMMUNITY

Redeemer's 23rd Convocation

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# The Cloud of Witnesses



Graduation day at Redeemer is always a very special and exciting occasion. Our 23rd Commencement exercises on May 24 were no exception as we gathered to confer degrees on a record 205 students! The overflow crowd of parents, family members, supporters and friends was again a reminder that Redeemer University College is much more than just its campus community of faculty, staff and students.

In fact Redeemer is an academic community of common faith in Christ and commitment to his Lordship that includes supporters, donors, alumni and friends that number in the thousands and come from Ontario, across Canada and many other countries. They stand with us through prayer, financial support and goodwill, even though they are most often not on campus and do not usually participate directly in campus activities.

We have sometimes used the phrase from Hebrews 12, the "cloud of witnesses" to capture this reality of faithful supporters who are in the stands, so to speak, as we on campus are on the track of university education and scholarship, continuing to run the race toward the goal of seeking to honour Christ's Lordship.

But on May 24 we were reminded of the full reality of that reference from Hebrews when we conferred our first posthumous degree on Craig Vanderveen, our former Student Senate President, who was taken to be with the Lord last summer. As we presented his diploma to his parents who were in attendance to accept it, and as Craig's legacy was also recognized in other ways, we experienced very powerfully that the cloud of witnesses includes not only saints below but also the saints above, the church militant and the church triumphant.

What a tremendous perspective within which to carry on our mission of Christian higher education and send forth the Class of 2008 to serve Christ! As we sang the final hymn and processed out of the auditorium on that afternoon, we all had a deepened sense of doing our work under the watchful care of the ascended Lord of history who sits on the throne and calls us to be his faithful co-workers until he comes again to make all things new ■

**“We experienced very powerfully that the cloud of witnesses includes not only saints below but also the saints above, the church militant and the church triumphant.”**

**— Dr. Justin Cooper, President**



## WHAT'S INSIDE



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## Lasting Images

Remembering a student leader.

Front Cover: Redeemer's 23rd Commencement ceremony on May 24 marked a change in the relationship that students have with the academic community that is Redeemer. But, as was pointed out by the Keynote Speaker, the graduates – just like the rest of us – are still members of a much broader community. See full story on page 4.

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OLSWA alumni James Mombourquette, Elizabeth O'Brien, Margaret Beresford, Theresa Merrick, Frances Platt, Michael Doyle and Elaine Mazzarolo with Redeemer President Dr. Justin Cooper (far right) and Redeemer Academic Vice President Dr. Jacob Ellens (far left), and OLSWA Founding Director Mr. John Paul Meenan (center) and OLSWA Academic Dean Mr. Scott Nicholson (2nd from right).

## Transfer students find home at Redeemer

This year's convocation also marked the second group of graduates who have come from Our Lady Seat of Wisdom Academy (OLSWA) as part of a transfer arrangement with Redeemer. Founded in 2000, the Academy is a small, private Catholic college in Barry's Bay, Ontario that promotes a traditional liberal arts education. After one to three years of studies at OLSWA, students may transfer to a number of different universities, including Redeemer, to complete their degrees.

Academy transfer students often comment that they are grateful for the warm welcome they receive at Redeemer, and how pleased they are to be able to finish their degrees at a strongly Christian university with high academic standards.

*Elizabeth O'Brien graduated this year from Redeemer with an Honours BA in English, after transferring from the Our Lady Seat of Wisdom Academy's three year certificate program in Christian Humanities.*

# Called, and Called Together

Commencement celebrates community



The Redeemer community celebrated the accomplishments of its graduates on May 24 with the 23rd Convocation for the Conferring of Degrees. With 205 students graduating, this marked the largest graduating class in Redeemer's history.

Although the accomplishments of individual students are most recognized at graduation, keynote speaker Dr. Edith Humphrey, William F. Orr Professor of New Testament at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, reminded the graduates that this is very much a communal event. Students are surrounded by the family, faculty and friends that have supported them throughout their time at Redeemer. But Dr. Humphrey also noted that this is a **con-vocation**, a time when they have been called (*vocare*) together with each other (*com*). Following the practice of believers in ancient Israel and through the earliest days of the church, Christians are called to join together to a life of service to God, not as individuals, but in community.

As Dr. Humphrey acknowledged, this community of graduates includes one who had already been called home last summer. Craig Vanderveen, former Student Senate President, died last summer while visiting family in Carman, MB. Craig was posthumously awarded a Bachelor of Arts degree; he was also given the Faculty Award, which is given annually







to the graduate "who best exemplifies academic excellence, Christian leadership, and active participation in the life of Redeemer."

Commencement also marked the end of full-time service to the Redeemer University College community of two faculty members. Dr. Henry Brouwer, Professor of Chemistry, and Dr. Al Wolters, Professor of Religion and Theology and Classical Studies retired from full-time teaching at the end of the academic year. In thanking them for their years of service, Dr. Cooper noted that both were involved with Redeemer as Board members before they became faculty (see p. 14). ■

Photos from left to right: Dr. Edith Humphrey, William E. Orr, Professor of New Testament at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary

Class Speaker Kevin Lobert channeled his inner David Letterman by doing his own "Top 10" list of things he learned while at Redeemer. From squirrels to service, he revealed how his education was marked by a broad spectrum of experiences.

Loreen Deelstra, who graduated with a Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Education degree, received the Governor General's Award for having the highest academic standing in the graduating class.



Craig's parents, Al and Anita Vanderveen, were present to accept his degree and Faculty Award.

Craig's contributions to Redeemer will be recognized with a new award: The Craig Allan Vanderveen Memorial Leadership Award. Although the description still needs to be finalized by the appropriate academic bodies, the goal is to provide an annual award to a student entering his or her third- or fourth-year of full-time studies who has made exceptional leadership contributions to the university. Mindful of the areas in which Craig demonstrated leadership, the award will be given to a student majoring in Business or Political Science and to a student who has served on Student Senate or who has been elected to serve as a Senator in the following academic year.

The goal is to create an endowment so that the award is funded annually through the interest generated by the funds collected. Those who wish to contribute to the award are encouraged to contact the Advancement Department at 905.648.2131.



# Setting the Stage

## Dramafest develops interest in theatre

By Stephanie Elgersma



The use of masks on stage was one of the workshops at this year's Dramafest.

Even though Redeemer students are sent home in April, it does not mean that the halls are empty during the summer months. Redeemer hosts a number of programs and activities for students, including the Redeemer High School Drama Festival, which takes place in May every year.

The Drama Festival (commonly referred to as Dramafest) started in 1993 when a Theatre and Business major at Redeemer decided to produce a drama festival for Christian high school students as an independent study. Theatre Arts professor Raymond Louter, who has been with the festival since its inception, notes that Dramafest, "provides an opportunity for students of Christian high schools to come together and grow in their perceptions and skills, most specifically regarding theatre, and create a bigger vision for what theatre can look like in a Christian community."

During their time at the festival, students participate in multiple workshops run by professionals in the theatre community, enjoy a professional theatre show, and have the opportunity to showcase their own plays, often with helpful critique and encouragement given to improve their work. The festival gives

students a chance to experience theatre beyond their own classroom and connect with other drama students and with those who are working in the industry.

Each year, the festival revolved around a specific theme. This year, Prof. Louter, along with Stephanie Elgersma and Sam Frisk, chose "Intersections" as the theme. The idea was to explore theatre as a place of meeting, of decision-making and of path-choosing, and that to choose is to discover more about who we are and what it means to love in God's world.

The Festival featured workshops involving various theatrical disciplines, such as clown work, stage combat, sound, movement and masks. Redeemer alumnae Jennifer McNaughton, Anita Brinkman and Sharon Wonder were among the workshop leaders, and the event closed with students performing work that they have been doing in their own theatre classes.

Just as Redeemer hopes to do with its own students, the Festival hopes to challenge students, and invigorate them in their faith and the expression of their interest in God's world. ■

*Stephanie Elgersma graduated this May with an Honours degree in English and a major in Theatre Arts performance.*

## SUMMER ON CAMPUS

Redeemer will host a number of conferences, courses, concerts, recitals, retreats and other events throughout the summer.

Other events include several programs for children, including Summer RAYS, week-long multi-sport camps that happen throughout the summer. For registration information, please visit [redeemer.ca/summerrays](http://redeemer.ca/summerrays)

In August, the Science Department will host two events for grade school children interested in learning more about creation and the sciences. "The Science of Creation" is a week-long camp running August 18-22 for students in grades 3-5. "So You Want to Be a Scientist," for students in grades 6-8, will run from August 11-15. Information on both can be found at [redeemer.ca/scienceschool](http://redeemer.ca/scienceschool).





# Digging up the Past

## Archaeologists uncover part of Redeemer's ancient history

By Carolyn Wright

One of the larger projects on Redeemer's campus that has been planned is the construction of a new Recreation Park on the south-west corner of the property. Funded by donations raised by the *Growing with Integrity* Capital Campaign, this development will include the creation of a path system through the wetlands area and the eventual construction of both a baseball diamond and a new soccer field.

As part of the site development approval process, a team from New Directions Archaeology, assisted by several McMaster University students, has been excavating the property, looking for evidence of prior habitation. This archeological work is a continuation of work that started in 2005 along the Kitty Murray entrance. At that time, archaeologists found the remains Native storage pits, a palisade (an early type of fence), and the frame of a home.

This past May, the archaeology team has started excavating near the spot where Art Howey, an amateur archaeologist who



Staff with New Directions Archaeology unearth a piece of decorative pottery at the dig site, just west of Crismer Court.

has studied Redeemer's campus, found Native artifacts. So far the team has found a possible longhouse, large storage pits, and a palisade, as well as shards of decorative pottery, corn, fish bones, and the skeleton of the now extinct passenger pigeon. Jackie Dolling and Andrew Murray, principals from New Directions Archaeology believe that all of these artifacts

are from "the Uren period," which dates back to 1300 AD. Some of these artifacts, such as the corn can be dated with carbon dating; other artifacts, such as the pottery, are decorated with tell-tale designs from the Uren Period. Because the area has yielded many archeological remains, the team expects to be working for at least a couple more months.

Visitors to campus are welcome to visit the site. Ms Dolling or one of her fellow archaeologists are more than willing to discuss the details of their work, and show the fruits of their labour. ■

Carolyn Wright is a third-year English major working this summer in Redeemer's Alumni and Community Relations Office.



# Banquet Celebrates Athletic Excellence

By Dave Mantel

Competing on a sports team at Redeemer builds many lasting memories for everyone who plays. Celebrating those memories was the goal of the 23rd Annual Athletic Awards Banquet held on April 9. Royals athletes enjoyed an evening of great food and recognition for their efforts this past year.

For the first time, Rookie of the Year awards were issued, replacing the Most Improved Player awards. It was also the first time Redeemer recognized a Canadian Collegiate Athletic Association (CCAA) All-Canadian Athlete (Ryan Talsma), and celebrated a Men's Gold medal (men's Indoor Soccer). The Women's Cross Country team was also recognized for earning another Bronze medal in the Ontario Collegiate Athletic Association (OCAA). Other highlights of the evening included the celebration of 6 OCAA All-Stars, 22 athletes being named OCAA All-Academic, and 2 being named CCAA All-Academic. Professor Ray Louter received the Active Lifestyle Award for his ongoing commitment to personal health.

Christine de Brouwer and Ryan Talsma were named Athletes of the Year. Christine was consistently one of the top cross country runners in the province, finishing

8th at the Ontario Championships, while Ryan completed a monster season averaging 5.49 points per game.

Carrie VanDorp and Nathan Ayer were awarded Scholar-Athlete of the Year honours. Carrie continued to show the quality and consistency that has become her trademark on the cross country team. She combined her athletic prowess with excellent grades and significant involvement in other extracurricular activities. In much the same way, Nathan Ayer is extremely well-rounded and hard-working. His ability to earn high marks while playing outdoor soccer, basketball and indoor soccer, is a testament to his discipline and work ethic. Nathan was named Tournament MVP and Top Goalkeeper for his role with the gold medal-winning indoor soccer team.

The Athletic Department also honoured long-serving Assistant Athletic Director Betty Steenbeek, who is leaving after 21 years as an athlete and administrator. As a player Betty received a number of awards and played on medal-winning soccer and volleyball teams. She was inducted into the Royal Road to Victory (Redeemer's Hall of Fame) in April of 2000. But she will also be remembered for the 19 years



of service and dedication that she brought to Redeemer's Athletic Department. Betty shared at the banquet what the time meant to her, and her hopes and dreams for the future of the Royals. Betty has made the Athletic Department one of the most welcoming and encouraging places to be on campus. Redeemer University College will miss her.

Visit [redeemer.ca/athletics](http://redeemer.ca/athletics) to see a complete list of awards. ■



Top: After a 21-year involvement with Redeemer athletics, Betty Steenbeek retired at the end of this academic year.

Left: Athletic Director Dave Mantel with Ryan Talsma and Christine de Brouwer, Redeemer's Athletes of the Year.

Right: Dean of Students Fred Schat with Scholar Athletes of the Year Nathan Ayer and Carrie VanDorp.



# Trip Celebrates Athletic Service

The Redeemer Athletic Department had much to celebrate this past year for the accomplishments of their athletes on the field (p.8). However, Athletic Director Dave Mantel wanted to see Redeemer athletes use their God-given athletic abilities in service to others as well. Former Redeemer athlete Hank de Jong, now Executive Director of Worldwide Christian Schools (WWCS), provided Dave and the Redeemer Athletic Department an opportunity to serve.

This past April, a team of Redeemer University College student-athletes went to Managua, Nicaragua on a mission trip organized by Worldwide Christian Schools

and the Redeemer Athletic Department. Part of WWCS' HANDS (Help Another Nation Develop Schools) program, the trip combined both construction and athletics.

Led by Ryan Postma, the WWCS HANDS team coordinator for Nicaragua, the team worked at three different schools that week. The first was at the Nicaragua Christian Academy, also known as NCA English. This is an English school, comprised of students from Nicaraguan and many missionary families. The team participated in gym classes and played a bit of soccer with the children. They also

installed a canopy to help keep the students dry during the rainy season.

The HANDS team then worked at NCA Nejapa, a Spanish-language sister school to NCA English, where they built new offices and did some property maintenance.

The last place the team visited was Gamaliel, a small Christian school in downtown Managua. While traveling to the school, the team was told that it was a holiday in Nicaragua and that no children would be at the school. However, to their surprise, the children came on their day off to welcome and thank the team for working at their school. Each grade had prepared a song for them and had made crafts for each one of them. This was an incredible experience and certainly a highlight of the trip.

Mantel hopes that this type of service opportunity becomes one of the hallmarks of the Athletic Department: "One of the stated goals of the Athletic Department is to glorify God in all that we do. As a result, we want to instill in our athletes the desire to use their gifts beyond the playing field." The Athletic Department plans to continue this partnership with Worldwide Christian Schools, something de Jong is also looking forward to: "With about 1 million children not in school in Nicaragua, the needs are enormous."

The HANDS (clockwise from top left) Justin Snippe, Kyle Couperus, Scott Fairley, Phoebe Mixon, Maddy Wynands, Christina Reid, Amber Kuipers, Christine DeBrouwer (middle), Megan Hulink and Alicia Schipper.



Worldwide  
Christian Schools





## More than just a paycheque

*Redeemer co-op students have had placements in a wide range of businesses, social service agencies and government agencies. The students' experiences, and the benefits they realized, are as varied as their placements:*

One of the benefits of the co-op experience for me was to help make practical sense of the book knowledge I had learned. It also reinforced my desire to work in the health-care industry. Furthermore, my experience helped prepare me for further studies and improved my confidence both in the classroom and the workplace. In addition, the placements allowed me to network and build contacts. Finally, my experience and contacts helped me to secure a good job in my field before I had even graduated.

—Nathaniel Vandendool  
*Hamilton Health Sciences  
St. Peter's Hospital, Hamilton*

The Redeemer Business Co-Op program has given me confidence. I know that I have REAL job experience and references on my résumé. When I go for interviews with potential employers after graduating, I know I have gained the knowledge and skills which will make me a valuable employee to hire. I have also learned how I, as a Christian, can apply my principles and knowledge in the working environment without compromising my beliefs. This may be the biggest advantage of all.

—Jeannie Bosua  
*Danyluk & Mann Chartered Accountants,  
Burlington  
Integra Capital Ltd., Oakville*

# It's a Win

## Redeemer's Co-op Program provides benefits

**R**oma Redeemer Business major Roman Golovochenko understood the dilemma as well as anyone—employers are looking to hire people with work experience, but Roman didn't have any. And he wasn't sure how he was going to get it.

Businessman Arjan Vos had his own challenges. As Controller of Rosa Flora Limited, a wholesale greenhouse operation in Dunnville, ON, he had a number of projects that needed attention, but he didn't have the time to pursue them. What he needed was someone with a background in business, but Arjan wasn't ready to commit to hiring someone on a full-time basis.

Entering his third year at Redeemer, Roman was hired by Rosa Flora for an eight-month co-op placement. His work there, under the supervision of Vos, included overseeing the accounting side of the conversion to a new accounting software and doing a capital analysis on purchasing a wind turbine to generate electricity for the operation.

Three years later, Roman is now a Controller himself, at Aldershot Greenhouses in Burlington. "With two work placements behind me, I graduated with a year-and-a-half experience in my field. I had an opportunity to work both in the industry as an assistant to the Controller and for the government as a field auditor. I was able to land this job primarily due to my previous work experience at Rosa Flora."

Meeting the needs of both the student and the employer is just one of the reasons behind the dramatic growth of Redeemer's Co-op Program over the last number of years. For students, the benefits are obvious: work experience; opportunities to apply classroom knowledge in practical situations; the chance to "test-drive" a career-track or industry; and, of course, a paycheque.

But the benefits of co-op are not just for students. Redeemer co-op students provide employers with cost-effective solutions for short-term staff



Katy Koorneef  
*Sureshot Business Services,  
Beamsville, Ron Kietzra,  
Chartered Accountant, Beamsville*



Caleb Smid  
*Lubecore International,  
Campbellville*



Cara Ottens  
*Danyluk & Mann, Burlington*



# Win

## for both employer and student

ing needs. These students offer a fresh perspective with new and innovative ideas. They also become excellent potential candidates for companies looking to recruit well-trained and practically-skilled full-time employees.

As an added benefit, in July 2007 the Ontario government extended the Co-operative Education Tax Credit to those employers who hired Redeemer students. Employers can earn up to \$2,000 in provincial tax credits for hiring a Redeemer co-op student, which goes a long way toward covering the student's placement cost.

The structure of Redeemer's Co-op program (see box at right) ensures that employers are hiring students who have a well-rounded foundation in business and the arts and sciences, and are also prepared for the specific tasks they are called to do. Kenna Danyliw is a partner with Danyliw & Mann Chartered Accountants in Burlington. After hiring several students over the years, she notes: "We have thoroughly enjoyed our experience with Redeemer's co-op program. The students that have worked with us have been professional, diligent, quick to learn and a great addition to our team. We look forward to continuing to work with Redeemer."

The winning solution is not limited by geography. Last year, co-op students worked as near as Vancouver and as far as British Columbia.

Redeemer is currently looking to place a number of business co-op students in January 2009. The students have training in, or are looking for experience in, marketing, general management, entrepreneurship and accounting.

If you are interested in learning how your organization can benefit from hiring a Redeemer Co-op student, please contact Nancy Hartholt, Co-op Coordinator, by calling 905-648-2139 ext. 4220 or emailing, [nhartholt@redeemer.ca](mailto:nhartholt@redeemer.ca). Please visit the website at [www.redeemer.ca/coop](http://www.redeemer.ca/coop) for more information. ■



Robert VandenEnde  
Hald-Neur Credit Union,  
Caledonia



Nathan Koppelaar  
Tremont Wood Specialties,  
St. Catharines



Seth Waterman  
Incipit Integrated  
Communications, Burlington

The summer co-op term in Computer Science has allowed me to work in a more professional environment outside of academia. I have gained insight as to how programmers work together on projects in the real world. A co-op placement gives me an opportunity to begin to immerse myself in this kind of environment.

—Tim Keavon

Information Technology Department,  
Redeemer University College  
Bach Research, Welland

While at Redeemer, I had the opportunity to do two eight-month co-op placements for one of the world's largest accounting firms. During both of these work terms, I was able to gain a great deal of hands-on, real-life experience. My employer allowed me the opportunity to learn, trusted me with increased responsibility, included me as a member of their team and hired me after I finished school.

—Jonathan van der Heiden

APML, Hamilton

## A Unique Model

Students in Redeemer's Business Co-op Program complete five semesters of study before going on their first eight-month placements in January of their third year. This ensures students have a solid foundation in a broad range of introductory business courses, as well as more general courses, prior to heading to their placement.

Their second eight-month placement usually begins in May of their last year. By this time, students have become specialized in one of the areas of concentration within the Business program.

Although Business is the largest segment of the Co-op Program, Redeemer also offers co-op placements in Environmental Science and Computer Science. The science placements begin in May and are four months long. Employers have the option for a second co-op placement in the subsequent summer. Redeemer is also exploring the possibility of having a co-op program in Theatre Arts.

# Federal Funding for Faculty Research

## NSERC also awards two prestigious scholarships to graduates

By Carolyn Wright

A number of Redeemer faculty and graduates have once again received funding from the National Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC), a federal program that supports scientific research and innovation through funding universities, governments, and the private sector.

In what is believed to be a first for a Redeemer graduate, biology major Julie Kikkert '08 has been awarded the NSERC Alexander Graham Bell Canada Graduate Scholarship. According to the news release announcing the award, the Canada Graduate Scholarships "provide financial support to the most outstanding eligible students pursuing master's or doctoral studies in a Canadian university. The Government of Canada established these prestigious scholarships, to be awarded through national competitions by the granting agencies, to ensure a reliable supply of highly qualified personnel to meet the needs of Canada's knowledge economy. Canada Graduate Scholars will help renew faculty at Canadian universities and will be the research leaders of tomorrow."

Another recent graduate, Loretta

Vanderspek, who graduated with a mathematics major in 2007, received NSERC's Post-Graduate Scholarship. Currently a teacher at Norwich Christian School, Loretta intends to pursue a Master's degree in mathematics at the University of Waterloo this September. The news release states that "NSERC Postgraduate Scholarships provide financial support to high-achieving students who are engaged in master's or doctoral programs in the natural sciences or engineering. This support allows these students to fully concentrate on their studies and to seek out the best research mentors in their chosen fields."

In addition to the scholarships, NSERC granted the Science, Mathematics, Computer Science, and Physics Department's funds to support departmental research, which is conducted primarily by student workers under the leadership of faculty.

Dr. Edward Berkelaar, Associate Professor of Environmental Science, is leading students Julie Kikkert, Amy Koopmans, Nick Van Huizen, Kristen Vanslughtenhorst, and James Harskamp in a study of trace metals, which are found naturally in soil, plants, animals, and humans, but have the potential of

Kristen Van Slughtenhorst is working on-campus this summer as a research assistant to Dr. Edward Berkelaar work that is being funded in part by NSERC.

## Other students funded by NSERC in the Science Department:

Matthew West

Supervisors: W. van Dijk and K. Spyksma  
Area: Physics — Time evolution of quantum systems

Timothy Ubbens

Supervisor: D. Schuurman  
Area: Computer Science — Computer Vision for Mobile Robots

Jocelyn Martens

Supervisor: G. Chiang, M. O'Donnell (McMaster)  
Area: Biology — Effects of Proctolin on Contractions of the Vagina in the Blood Feeding Insect *Rhodnius prolixus*

Natalie Campbell

Supervisor: K. Vander Meulen  
Area: Mathematics — Polynomials of Sign Patterns

Emily Williams, a science educational assistant, is working at the Summer Science Camps (p. 6) as a result of a funding from the Human Resource Development CanadaWorks program.

reaching toxic levels. This study is done in association with Metals in the Human Environment Research Network, a body of researchers who conduct studies of toxicity. "



# Redeemer Welcomes New Faculty

From around the world to around the corner, Redeemer University College welcomes four new professors to our faculty this fall

We're grateful that God has led such talented academics to be part of our community.

By Carolyn Wright

## Dr. Vahagn Asatryan

### BUSINESS

*You want fries with that?*



Many of us look at jobs flipping burgers or pouring coffee as being somewhat inconsequential. But Dr. Vahagn Asatryan has made a career out of studying the multi-billion dollar hospitality industry. He will be bringing insights from his work in that industry – and from his many other work and life experiences – to Redeemer after accepting an appointment as an Assistant Professor of Business.

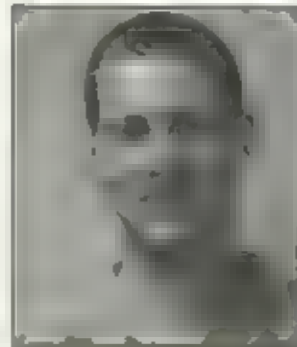
Dr. Asatryan, has a Ph.D from Iowa State University in Food Service and Lodging Management and Marketing. His dissertation is on the Psychological Ownership Theory, an application that is often used in the restaurant industry. Prior to receiving his Ph.D., Dr. Asatryan received a Master's in Marketing and Finance and a B.Sc. in International Economic Relations. Dr. Asatryan's many years of work experience in the finance and marketing industries will also be extremely useful in demonstrating to students the practical applications of seemingly theoretical work.

Dr. Asatryan will need to adjust to more than just a new employer. He and his family will be moving to the Hamilton area from Bangor, Maine, where he was on faculty at Husson College. Canada will be the third country in which he has lived: born in Armenia (formerly part of the Soviet Union), he moved to the States to continue his education. In addition to English, Dr. Asatryan will probably be the only faculty member at Redeemer who is also fluent in Armenian and Russian.

## Prof. Kevin Flatt

### HISTORY

*Not a neutral observer*



Kevin Flatt, who began teaching in Redeemer's History Department part-time last semester, has joined Redeemer's faculty on a full-time basis this semester. Mr. Flatt is currently working on his dissertation at McMaster University, after receiving his Master's Degree from the University of Western Ontario, and a B.A. in Economics and History from the

University of Waterloo.

One area in which Flatt specializes is modern Canadian church history. His dissertation, *The Survival and Decline of Evangelism in the United Church of Canada, 1930-1970*, investigates the rise of liberalism of the United Church. His research reveals that liberalization in the United Church started inwardly as early as the 1940's and began to show outwardly in the 1960's, leading to a major decrease in church attendance. In addition to modern church history, Flatt is interested in European – particularly German – history and Islamic history.

Flatt admits that his biblical understanding of history has been challenged by the predominant ideology of secular universities. Nevertheless, he remains firm in the opinion that "no one is a neutral observer, but that all thinking depends on presuppositions about truth, God, humanity, and causality that are ultimately religious."

Kevin and his wife Laura are active members of Evangelical Missionary Church in Waterloo, where Kevin has taken up a leadership position in their men's ministry.

## Prof. Christina Belcher

### EDUCATION

#### A Global Perspective



Ms. Christina Belcher is coming back to Ontario to take a position in Redeemer's Education Department. Prior to her appointment, Ms.

Belcher had been working at Trinity Western University as an Assistant Professor of Education.

Ms. Belcher's life in the classroom began at the primary level, where she taught for eighteen years in several schools in Ontario. She describes her teaching philosophy as an attempt to bring "wonder, truth, justice and reconciliation" to education. After teaching, Ms. Belcher decided to pursue her education, receiving a Master's degree from Australia's College of Christian Higher Education. She is now working on a Ph.D. from the University of Monash, Australia.

In addition to a long academic history and vast teaching experience, Ms. Belcher has many published works, particularly in worldview studies. Her dissertation explores the role of language in promoting worldviews, and the difference a Christian higher education can make in the life of a student.

In her spare time Ms. Belcher enjoys spending time with her family—husband, four children, and seven grandchildren. As well, she has been actively involved in the Christian and Missionary Alliance Church, including serving as president of the Alliance Women's Ministry, British Columbia.

## Dr. Ryan O'Dowd

### RELIGION & THEOLOGY

#### Learning about Wisdom



It is not very often that you meet someone who can teach you biblical Hebrew and Greek, and more...

on how to fly a plane, but those are just a couple of the talents of Dr. Ryan O'Dowd, Redeemer's new Assistant Professor of Religion and Theology.

Dr. O'Dowd received his Bachelor of Science through the United States Air Force Academy, and was certified as an Air Force flying instructor in 2001. After this, Dr. O'Dowd received a Master's degree from the Reformed Theological Seminary in Mississippi, followed by a Ph.D. from the University of Liverpool. For the past two years Dr. O'Dowd has worked as an Assistant Professor at Briarcrest College in Alberta, where his wife also worked, in the Registrar's Office.

Dr. O'Dowd's recently published dissertation is a study of biblical wisdom literature. He has also written, with Dr. Craig Bartholomew, H. Evan Runner Professor of Philosophy and Professor of Religion and Theology at Redeemer, *A Theology of Wisdom Literature*, an introduction to biblical wisdom literature.

Dr. O'Dowd and his wife Amy, both American citizens, have lived across North America and Europe. They will pick up stakes one more time, with their three young children, Aidan, Annie and Patrick, to settle in the Hamilton area this summer.

## Reaching beyond the classroom

*Two long-serving faculty members retired at the end of the academic year. Although their tenure was at Redeemer, their impact extended far beyond the walls of the campus.*

**DR. HENRY BROUWER**, Professor of Chemistry, has decided to retire, at least partially, after 23 years of service at Redeemer. Dr. Brouwer will still be teaching, albeit on a reduced schedule, while preparing to hand over the reins of the department to his son, Dr. Darren Brouwer, who joins Redeemer's faculty in January.

Dr. Henry Brouwer was Redeemer's pioneer faculty member in chemistry, beginning his work in 1985, three years after Redeemer's opening. In addition to teaching, Dr. Brouwer has been influential in shaping Redeemer's Chemistry and Environmental Science Departments. He has also been active in developing science curricula for Christian elementary and secondary schools. One of his projects has been *Science Made Easy*, a DVD of science experiments that has been used in schools at all levels, across the world. He has also been active at the AuSable Institute for environmental science education in Michigan, where he often teaches in the summer months.

Dr. Brouwer is looking forward to his semi-retirement, although it appears that he will not be slowing down much. He anticipates spending more time with his family, as well as doing some woodwork and picking up on hobbies that have been neglected over the years. Not that

*Continued on next page*





At a reception in April, family and friends celebrated the combined 73 years of service that Dr. Brouwer, Ben Seegeman (Director of Stewardship and Planned Giving) and Dr. Wolters have given Redeemer. Marian Ryks-Szelekowsky (Vice-President, Enrollment and Student Development) also left Redeemer this spring to take a position at Lakehead University in Thunder Bay as Vice Provost (Student Affairs). We are grateful for the 2 years of service she gave.

*Continued from previous page*

he's minded the business of his university career: "Redeemer has been a great place to teach with the freedom to follow my interests," he says.

"Redeemer is a dream come true," claims **DR. AL WOLTERS**, Professor of Religion and Theology and Classical Studies, as he reflects on his retirement. One of the original members of Redeemer's Board

of Governors, and then one of the first faculty members, Dr. Wolters has seen Redeemer grow from an unknown entity to a flourishing university of 900 students.

Through his 24 years of teaching at Redeemer, Dr. Wolters has had an enormous impact on the lives of many students, both inside and outside the Religion and Theology Department. As a scholar, Dr. Wolters' research is as respected as it is

varied: his interests include Biblical criticism, the Copper Scroll (part of the Dead Sea Scrolls) and the book of Zechariah.

But perhaps his greatest contribution to Redeemer students, academia and the Christian community at large – has been in his writing and promotion of a Reformational worldview, summarized in his book *Creation Regained*. In print for two decades (a new edition was published in 2005) and translated into eight languages, *Creation Regained* has been an introduction to an integrated Christian worldview to believers around the world.

Dr. Wolters admits that this is not as much a retirement as a shift in focus. He has taken a position with the Pandora Centre for Public Theology, an organization dedicated to biblical studies. This position will allow him more time to work on his writing projects, such as an upcoming commentary on the night visions of Zechariah. Fitting for one who has been so essential in seeing a dream of his own come true. ■

## Dr. Theodore Plantinga

— 1947 - 2008 —

As *Images* was about to go to press, Redeemer University College lost one of its longest-serving faculty members. Dr. Theodore Plantinga, Professor and Chair of the Philosophy Department, died peacefully at his home in Dundas on the evening of July 4, 2008.

Dr. Plantinga had been struggling with the prostate cancer that first afflicted him a number of years ago. However, he was planning to teach again this upcoming academic year. He was just 61 years old.

Dr. Plantinga was Redeemer's first employee. In 1978, he was appointed Executive Director of College Development for

the Ontario Christian College Association founded to explore the possibility of starting a Reformed Christian liberal arts and science college in Ontario. He was also one of the eight original faculty members of Redeemer.

Plans are underway for a memorial service in September. Visit the News & Events section of Redeemer's website for information as it becomes available.

The Redeemer community is asked to remember in prayer Dr. Plantinga's wife Janet, and his children David (Austin, Texas), Michael and Tamara (Denver, Colorado), and Abigail and Jeremy Byr



(Winnipeg, MB). Theo was a step-father to five children, a brother to six siblings, and grandfather to Steven. He was predeceased by his first wife of 34 years Mary Plantinga, his daughter Elisabeth and his parents, Folkert and Anje Plantinga.

He will be greatly missed as a friend, colleague, teacher and mentor. *Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints.*

# Alumni Board Proposes New Mission Statement

They are simple yet profound questions – *Who are we? What are we doing? Why are we doing it?* Often expressed as mission or vision statements, healthy organizations take the time to ask themselves these questions in order to judge their effectiveness in carrying out their purpose.

This spring, the Alumni Board went through such an exercise. The current mission statement, adopted in 2004, reads:

*The Redeemer Alumni Association is committed to providing alumni with opportunities to:*

- *build and strengthen their relationships with the Redeemer University College community;*
- *use their gifts and talents to serve that community; and*
- *encourage one another to work out God's calling in their lives.*

Although comprehensive, the Board felt that this three-pronged Mission Statement is a bit wordy and unwieldy, and difficult for most people to succinctly state just what it does. As well, the Board was concerned that it did not express the rela-

tionship-developing work that it feels is at the heart of its work.

As part of this process, the Board came up with a model of what it understands the work of the Association to be:

At the centre, the heart of what the Association does, are ALUMNI. Those alumni-to-alumni relationships are the primary ones the Board works to develop.

But there is a purpose beyond just interpersonal interaction: those relationships should strengthen the broader REDEEMER COMMUNITY. Faculty, staff, students, prospective students and supporters are all elements of that community, and alumni play a key role in strengthening ties between those different constituents, thereby strengthening the University as a whole.

But again, those relationships are not ends unto themselves. Ultimately, a stronger Redeemer community can have a stronger impact for God and HIS KINGDOM, where ever He has called each of us to serve.

In light of this, the Board is proposing

that the Association adopt a new Mission Statement: *Building Relationships that Foster Community.*

Because this requires a change to the Constitution of the Alumni Association (see [www2.redeemer.ca/alumni/constitution.pdf](http://www2.redeemer.ca/alumni/constitution.pdf)), the membership of the Association is asked to endorse the proposed change. Please take a moment to complete the ballot

below.

Alumni Board President Sharon Vandermeulen is excited about this change and what it may mean for the work of the Board. "This is a unique moment in the history of the Association – Redeemer has just completed its first quarter-century; we're more established as an organization, with a better sense of who we are and what needs to be done. I believe that this change will provide a symbolic, and real, departure for a new era in alumni relations at Redeemer University College." ■



## Time to Tee it Up!

The Twelfth Annual Alumni Golf Tournament will be held on Saturday, September 20, 2007, starting at 9:00 am. It will be held at the New Course of the Knollwood Golf Course on Book Rd in Ancaster. Advance registration and payment for this 4-person Best Ball tournament is required. Send your cheque, payable to Redeemer University College, to the Alumni Office by September 1, 2008. The cost of the tournament is \$50 per person. See you on the links!

## BALLOT

I approve of the change to the Alumni Association's Constitution:

☐ YES    ☐ NO

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Ballots must be signed and received by the Alumni Office by September 1, 2008.

Members of the Association may submit ballots by email, provided that their name and address appear on the email message received. Email ballots should be sent to [alumni.office@redeemer.ca](mailto:alumni.office@redeemer.ca)



## Change in Athletic Fees for Alumni

Effective September 1, 2008, Redeemer alumni will be offered memberships to the Athletic Centre at a reduced rate of less than 50% of a regular student/senior rate. Up until now, alumni have been able to use the Athletic Centre at no cost.

The Athletic Centre is serving more students and teams each year; trying to accommodate a growing number of non-student members is straining the physical and financial resources of the Athletic Department. "Students and student-athletes take priority when it comes to use of the facilities, and there is a certain level of service that they should be able

to expect when they enroll here," says Dave Mantel, Athletic Director. "Beyond that, we also need to cover a number of mandated health and safety and security requirements that come with serving more people."

Although free membership at Redeemer's Athletic facility has long been a benefit for alumni, the Alumni Board supports the decision made by the Athletic Department as one that is best for students and their needs. Alumni can still take advantage of a number of other benefits; for more information on those, please visit [www.redeemer.ca/alumni](http://www.redeemer.ca/alumni).

## Two awards for Alumnus Note on Survey

Incipit Integrated Communications, a full service marketing and communications firm started by Kevin Adema '01, recently won two Summit Awards. The Summit International Awards have, throughout its fourteen-year history, established themselves as one of the premier arbiters of creative and communication excellence annually reviewing entries from more than 50 countries. This year, over 4,000 entries were received. Incipit was recognized in both the Business-to-Business Direct Marketing and the Invitation categories. On winning the awards, Adema stated: "It's truly remarkable to be recognized, but real credit must go to the team that I'm honoured to work with daily and of course, to our Maker; where our gifts come from."

With just under 20 employees, Incipit is currently in its third year of operation. Their clients include: RIM, Manulife Financial, Bayer Pharmaceuticals, DHL, Medtronic, Pepsi and many other leading pharmaceutical and consumer brands.

The recent alumni survey was conducted by a student group as part of a senior marketing course. That information was not made clear on the survey. The Alumni Office, which worked with the students on the project, regrets the confusion that this may have caused.

The Alumni Board was pleased at the wealth of information that the survey yielded. It will continue to use the results in planning its activities and programs. It is also pleased that it was able to work with students.

Ryan Zantling, one of the students who conducted the survey noted, "In terms of the assignment it was probably the best business project that I had in my 4 years of university. It was very hands on and it gave us experience with real clients. This forced us to meet the deadline, be professional and work together as a team to complete the task at hand."

## Alumni Choir Invited to Sing Messiah

Redeemer's Concert Choir, under the direction of Dr. Christiaan Teeuwssen, will be singing two performances of Handel's *Messiah* this December. All former Concert Choir members (those who have sung at least one year in the choir as a student), are invited to join the Alumni Choir as they perform with the Concert Choir for these performances.

**REHEARSALS**—All rehearsals are from 7:30 pm – 9:00 pm on the following Monday evenings in room I

25G and 125H:

September 15

September 29

October 6

October 20

November 3

November 17

December 1

Dress rehearsal at MacNab Street Presbyterian Church from 8:00 – 10:00 pm.

**PERFORMANCES:**

Friday, December 5 at Redeemer at 7:30 pm

(Dress rehearsal begins at 3:30 pm)

Saturday, December 6 at MacNab Street Presbyterian Church at 7:30 pm

(Dress rehearsal in MacNab Sanctuary begins at 5:00 pm.).

The Alumni and Concert Choirs will be using as their score the *Novello Edition*; copies may be purchased through the Redeemer Campus Book Store. Those alumni who are interested in participating should contact Dr. Teeuwssen ([teeuwssen@redeemer.ca](mailto:teeuwssen@redeemer.ca)) as soon as possible.

## Personal Touch

>> **Katharina Bastian Sammut '97** is pleased to announce her recent marriage to Paul Sammut on May 3, 2008. Katharina is working as a children's therapist and a client case consultant for foster parents and adoptive families within the child welfare system. Paul works as a Health and Safety Associate for the Region of Peel.

>> **Carola Vanderspek '04** is proud to announce that she received a Doctor of Medicine degree on May 16, 2008. She will be moving to Thunder Bay, ON in June to begin her Family Medicine Residency through the Northern Ontario School of Medicine.

>> **Michael '06 and Rachel '05 Mussche Vander Deen** are pleased to announce the birth of a healthy son, Peter Hendrik, on November 17, 2007. Michael is currently teaching grade 5/6 at Heritage Christian School, while Rachel is enjoying time at home with Peter.

>> **Dean '03 and Liesbeth '03 Buist** are currently living in Palestine, Arkansas, where Dean teaches high school English and is the youth director at their church. Liesbeth is staying home to take care of their son Owen, as well as a few other children during the day. E-mail: deanbuist@yahoo.com. Phone: 870-591-2588.

>> **Lisa Gayan-Berg '06** is pleased to announce her marriage to Dale Berg on November 10, 2007. Lisa and Dale are currently opening a restaurant in Lisa's hometown of Hinton, Alberta. Bleu Moon Bistro is set to open mid-July 2008. Address: 124 Market Street, Hinton, AB T7V 2A2. Phone: 780-865-5205. E-mail: hrt4him@yahoo.com.

>> **Mark Nyman '07** is now a registered real estate salesperson for Re/Max Escarpment Realty Inc. Phone: 1-905-304-3303.

### Want to contribute to Personal Touch?

Alumni are encouraged to forward their news of interest for publication in the Personal Touch column. Marriages, births, job changes, academic accomplishments — whatever your friends and former classmates might be interested in. Please send an email to [alumni@redeemer.ca](mailto:alumni@redeemer.ca), or contribute through the on-line form at [www.redeemer.ca/alumni](http://www.redeemer.ca/alumni)

## Last Chance for Frames

From 1986-2007, the diploma certificate that was given to Redeemer graduates had a landscape (horizontal) orientation. This year, the diplomas were changed; they are now slightly larger, and have a portrait orientation.

Because of that change, the Alumni Office will soon stop selling frames for the "old" diploma. Those graduates who still have the "old" diploma,



1986-2007 Certificate

and who would like to have it framed, should contact the Alumni Office as soon as possible. We are planning to make one more order to accommodate all those who would still like to have their degree framed.

These frames are custom-sized and come with a deep red mat embossed in gold tinted foil with the of-



2008 Certificate

ficial crest of Redeemer University College. Frames have a walnut-stained wood finish and a glass face. Their clip-back system makes it easy to frame the certificate at home. The Alumni Office also stocks matching frames for the composite picture, and 5 x 7 or 8 x 10 pictures.

The frames for the older diploma certificates cost \$73.45 (taxes included). Please contact the Alumni Office ([alumni@redeemer.ca](mailto:alumni@redeemer.ca); 905.648.2139 x4292) for questions or to place an order.



Following a tradition that dates back to the Redeemer's first graduation, the Class of 2008 presented a gift to Redeemer. This commemorative art piece was created in remembrance and celebration of Craig Vanderveen.

Poignant passages from Ecclesiastes (Craig's favorite book of the Bible) sweep through the triptych (three panels) and bring together the theme of change and life as represented by the seasons and the symbolism of the tree in the painting.

Artists Annie Ling, Emily Darling and Julie Konyndyk, all graduates of Redeemer and friends of Craig, stand with his parents, Anita and Al, at the unveiling of the painting, which will hang on the second floor of Redeemer's academic building.

#### REMEMBER YOUR CREATOR

*Medium: Acrylic and mixed media on canvas*





# REDEEMER

A CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

**INTEGRATE** your faith into every aspect of your life.  
**BECOME** part of an authentic Christian community.  
**EARN** your Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science or  
Bachelor of Education degree.

More than 850 students from over 40 different  
denominations attend Redeemer, located on a  
beautiful 90-acre campus near Hamilton, in  
Southern Ontario.



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[www.redeemer.ca](http://www.redeemer.ca)

*Discover* ALL THINGS IN HIM